

ARTS '89

Arts '89 A supplementary publication of the Mouth of the River March 30, 1989



Kerry Swift, Rob Martin, and Mary McCleary in "Our Town."



FINE ARTS COMMITTEE HOLDS ART EXHIBITS; WORK FROM GRADS, FACULTY, STUDENTS

by Kathy Mills

"A lot of people do very creative things as a part of their lives and we don't often have an opportunity to share that and see others people's work," said Anna Nash, a member of the arts committee.

The fine arts committee held an art exhibit from March 10 to the 19. Part of the Fine Arts Festival was a series of exhibits in display cases and in the library. The five exhibits featured were a faculty, Russia and three photography exhibits.

A Sketchbook View of Russia by Bob Nilson

was a collection of felt tip sketches from his trip to Russia. Bob Nilson is also one of the math teachers at O.R.H.S.

"Celebrations" by Jeff Johnson was one of the photography exhibits. This dealt with the association of effort and reward. The pictures were of athletes at their moment of victory. Jeff Johnson has been the girls' cross country coach for several years.

"Jamaica Project" by David Taylor, a 1985 graduate, is a collection of colored images which are a part his work using Jamaica as a

Exhibits cont. 4A

CHORUS HOSTS MANCHESTER YOUTH SYMPHONY FOR PRACTICE, POTLUCK SUPPER, JOINT CONCERT

by Scott Grumbling

The Chorale and Chamber Singers joined the Greater Manchester Youth Symphony Orchestra here at ORHS on Saturday evening March 18, as part of the Arts '89 Festival.

Directed by Steve Denson and Stephen Smith, GMYSO conductor, performed pieces from Bach, Beethoven, Mozart and Prokofief. Some of the works included were Magnificent, Mass in C, and Concerto for Clarinet.

According to Mr. Denson, "The concert was neat, and amazing." He also added, "This

was the biggest audience we've had this year, I'm really happy with how it went." The concert was directed first by Steve Denson, then halfway through Stephen Smith took over and directed the orchestra and chorale in the final selection.

On Friday and Saturday evening March 9 & 10, the High School Mixed Instrument Assembly known as Musica Viva was pit orchestra for "H.M.S. Pinafore", a comedy put on by the 8th grade. Mr. Denson felt that Pinafore went real well, saying, "It went together to make a real neat production." Symphony pg. 4

ARTS '89 FEATURES PLAYS, EXHIBITS, DEMONSTRATIONS

by David Hutchinson

"Anything that we can expose to the kids is like sharing a part of you that's really important," said Anna Nash in reference to the Arts '89 Festival. She hopes students will enjoy it, because the exhibits are from students, graduates and faculty of ORHS. Nash is one of six teachers on the fine arts committee who put many dedicated hours into setting up exhibits, plays and concerts to renew the students interest in the arts.

The schedule contains drawings, paintings, photographs, video productions, drama and singing for the middle and high schools. The committee is composed of Richard Tappan, Ned Rollins, Paul Gasowski, Bill Childs, Bob Nilson and Anna Nash. Their philosophy behind the festival is that "Art courses are just as important as science and math courses because they are involved in every day life," explains Richard Tappan.

by Linda Savage

"Our Town" by Thornton Wilder featured a new approach to the famous 1938 Broadway hit. The Oyster River production, staged on March 16 and 17, used an ancient theatrical device, the Greek chorus, in which the story of the individual characters is made universal by having chanters duplicate the lines and movements in other locations than the main stage.

Mr. Denson, the director, said that this approach showed how the experience of the young couple George and Emily is like that of all people as they grow up, fall in love, wonder about their futures, find joy and face sorrow.

Scott Long played George Gibbs and Mary McCleary played Emily Webb. Hilary McHone played Mrs. Gibbs and Kerry Swift was Mrs. Webb.

Bill Myers played Mr. Webb and Jason Pollard played Mr. Gibbs.

The story is divided into three phases of life--youth and family, love and marriage, and death and loss.

Our Town cont. 4A





H.M.S. PINAFORE PRODUCTION BY EIGHTH GRADE OPENS FESTIVAL

by Beth Shapiro

The eighth graders of ORMS presented the musical "HMS Pinafore" on Friday and Saturday March 10th and 11th.

The curtain opened with Sir Joseph and his crowd of blushing beauties, coming by boat to meet Captain Corcoran who intends to make the final arrangements for the wedding of Sir Joeseeph and Josephine.

The Dilemma is that Josephine is truly in love with a mere sailor named Ralph Rackstraw. He isn't of high enough status to be married to Josephine. Secretly they plan to elope, but were caught in their attempt and Ralph is dragged away.

However in the midst of this, Buttercup a flirtatious wine seller reveals the shocking news that Ralph and Captain Corcoran were, as infants, mixed up during "Childhood happy hours", by their nursemaids and have led each others lives. It is then acceptable for Josephine and Ralph to live together happily ever after.

Every 8th grader had a part in the chorus or a lead. "It was inspiring to see a class work so well together, they were unified. I was impressed," replied Annie Noard.

The lead parts were played by Chris Jerard as Ralph Rackstraw, Jen Friel as Buttercup,

John Hill as Sir Joseph Porter. Jay Seger as Cousin Hebe, Jen Keterson as Josephine, Gabe Brown as Boatswain, and Charlie Bryon as Captain Corcoran. Sarla DeGeorge as cousin Peony, Mark Perocchi as Dick Dead-eye, Lizzie Firczuk as cousin Celerity, and Russell Warren as Bob Becket.

Dave Irvin, director, was responsible for choosing 11 students out of 86 who tried out to be in the leads. Prior to the show, the general feeling of the cast was that they were all working very well together.

"The rehearsals are fun, we all apply ourselves," says Jay Seger. "We make a good team," added Jen Robertson.

Although it is a lot of fun, it also takes a time to prepare for a production such as this. "All of the time practicing combined will take 22 hours as well as individual practicing of lines at home," notes Robertson.

Being this the first major play many of the leads had participated in, the pre-show jitters did not decrease until well after the curtain opened. Both the cast and the director were pleased by the results. It was estimated by Mr. Tappan that over 200 people attended.



Students learning how to spatter paint scenery under the direction of Richard Tappan. This was the set for the fall play "Murder at the Hollow" which was the first production in the drama program for the year. Learning behind-the-scenes work is part of the arts experience and is as important to the success of drama as the work done in front of the lights.

ARTS SAMPLER CLOSES FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

by Danielle
Ravenelle

Arts '89 closed on Sunday March 19, at 2:00 in the ORHS cafeteria with a sampler composed of small music, video, and drama presentations. "The sampler was an opportunity for students to present either polished productions or experi-

ments to a small audience and for the audience to share comments and reactions," said Richard Tappan, teacher of the participating drama class.

Todd Whitten and Rod Silverwood performed a non-verbal comic scene, "Fish-ing", which placed the means of communication completely on body language.

Sampler cont. 4A

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VIDEODISC at Oyster River Technology Wave of Future

by Chris Keefe

O.R.H.S. is riding on the new wave of technology as far as electronics are concerned. O.R.H.S. recently purchased several new laserdisc players, and they are being used in the video production classes, the biology and earth science departments, and the astronomy classes.

Paul Gasowski, head of the video program, said, "You can get anywhere you want on a laserdisc player in five to eight seconds. Comparatively, a standard VCR would take three to five minutes to get to the desired image." Mr. Gasowski went on to say that still frames can be held on the video monitor for as long as needed.

Videodisc players were originally rather expensive--around the \$1000+ range, but now they are dropping in price. As far as the videodiscs themselves go, ones of the educational variety can range anywhere from \$30 to \$1200 for a two disc set.

The availability of the videodiscs varies greatly, an O.R. teachers admitted that occasionally educational discs are hard to find. One teacher at the school even believes that the



laserdisc player will eventually totally replace VCRs. Mr. Gasowski said, "I can definitely see videodisc rental stores in the future, they are definitely on the horizon."

A class that would have a great deal of difficulty functioning without the laserdisc system is the Planetarium class. Planetarium utilizes the laserdisc system by hooking it up to an Apple IIe computer which acts as a trigger mechanism for the laserdisc player. When a control is pressed on the computer, the laserdisc player is triggered and sends an image to the monitor under the dome.

Video cont. pg. 4a

Gasowski promotes videodisc in more classrooms in future

news magazine. The news show, called SCAN (School Committee Arts Network), was set up as a project for the Video Tape Production class to see if they could produce something. It's other goal was to present interesting news articles on school functions, school art, and committee projects to the viewing public. They achieved both goals by winning 4 out of 5 top awards at a New England competition of V.T.P., by showing stories on local people with interesting walks of life.

This new program will have the same goals as SCAN as well as to "give us a better sense of what goes on behind the scenes of news programs. It also covers things that are not usually covered by major news networks in the area," said Bill Crotty. Prod. cont. 4

by Eric Gibson

Mr Gasowski is planning to put the Video Tape Production class back in the air after a two year rest.

Over two years ago, Oyster River High School went on the local cable station with their version of a

Directed by Todd Whitten

"DINING ROOM" PORTRAYS CHANGING VALUES, LIFESTYLES

by Deanna Comtois

Last year an Independent study Drama Workshop was offered for the first time at ORHS, this interest continued this year with "The Dining Room," directed by senior Todd Whitten.

The play depicts the loss of traditional values within the family- the disintegration of marriage, the breakdown of communication, the change in moral values in relationships- all of the values that were once held in common in our society, but are disappearing in the last 2 generations. These changes were vividly portrayed in 22 scenes around the dining room table.

The 22 different scenes had no real connection between any of them. The eight cast members have no relationship outside the scenes that they play in either. One person could be Arthur in one scene, but in the next be Tony as an example. As the furniture stays the same, the dining room is the constant, stereotypical room that is in our own home or once was in it.

The roles were played by Gina Christenson, Michael Voll, Brandie

Garrigan, Rod Silverwood, Linda Savage, Dan Carr, Jessica Winston and Matt Ginsburg. Director Whitten stated, "I'm really pleased with the results, but I wish there could have been another performance." Mrs. Geeslin stated, "It was a great performance and everyone did a great job I really enjoyed it!"

"The actors and actresses did an excellent job," Whitten commented. Katrin Sternemann also commented that, "It was a great play and the people who participated in it were excellent!"



Linda Savage and Gina Christenson in "Dining"



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Exhibits from 1A

focus to explore third world issues.

"Coastal Images" by Will Lenharth is a series of coastal pictures as a result of work done at the Maine Photography Workshop. Will is a senior at O.R.H.S.

The faculty exhibit featured work by Anna Nash, book bindings and leather photo boxes; Bill Childs, Water color; Pat Abbot, Quilt; Rose O'Brien, leather moccasins; Shelley Weeks, knit sweater; Barbara Hopkins, weaving; Peg Reeves, needle point; Eileen Geeslin, cross stitch; Ann Brown, quilted wall hanging and Emma Rous, painting.

"I thought the festival was very successful," said Mrs. Nash. She said that there was a great deal of response. They hope that next years will be held for a longer period of time so that more exhibits can be displayed. The committee has been thinking about opening the festival next year with a concert and having a reception for the artists involved in the exhibits.

Symphony from 1A

Sunday the final day for the Arts Festival which featured special chamber works of

instruments from Steve Denson's music department.

Barbara Kelsey, Karen Gooze, and Susan Varholy performed Two Canons by Joseph Haydn. Sarah Jones, and Tina Mennel performed "Sonatina" by Anton Duorak. Josh Stamper performed "Ragmuffin" which was by Michael Hedges, and Sarah Jones performed "Fugue For Naomi Rebekon," a piece Sarah wrote in honor to her niece.

The orchestra spent most of Saturday practicing and were joined by the GMYSO at one o'clock and polished up some pieces for the concert at 7:30. Students from OR prepared a pot luck supper at 5:30 and the orchestra and chorale mingled and relaxed prior to the concert. Nearly 120 students participated in the concert.

Sampler from 2A

Two improvised scenes were given next. The first was "The Will", performed by David Schommer, Lance Waterfield, and Blake Tucker. The second was "The Boyfriend", performed by Kristie Rock and Leia Marshall.

The students of the drama class then drew situations from a basket and performed them spontaneously. This part of the sampler was appropriately called "Basket Cases".

Memorized monologues and dialogues were done last in which the students relied on their voices to convey meaning and emotion. "Caesar and Calpurnia"

done by Blake Tucker and Kristie Rock was among the most polished pieces.

Musical presentations were given between the acting portions of the sampler. Karen Gooze, Barbara Kelsey, Sue Varholy, Sarah Jones (sophomore), Tina Mennel, and Josh Stamper participated.

The afternoon also included videotape presentations made in Mr. Gasowski's video production classes.

The arts sampler closed with a pledge by the Fine Arts Committee for a continuing tradition of arts festivals.

Our Town from 1A

"I thought the scene where Jason had to cry over the death of his daughter-in-law was very realistic looking," said Gunnar Olson.

Mr. Tappan said that the third portion was very gripping, especially the scene in the graveyard.

"Our Town" is the annual "Novice play." Mr. Denson conceived of the idea of having one play a year which would be principally for students who had never had major roles before. Such a play must allow for a large cast without the dominance of a few characters.

There are three major productions during the year. The fall play ("The Hollow" directed by Richard Tappan), the novice play, and the musical ("Oklahoma!" directed by Steve Denson.) There are also workshop plays directed by students. ("The Dining Room" directed by Todd Whitten.)

Video from 3A

Slow motion sequences of walking on the moon are shown under the dome, and it adds to the space like atmosphere under the dome.

Mr. Gasowski also stated that the videodisc players which the school owns have not yet malfunctioned in the time since they have been purchased. This basically means that repair costs spent on malfunctioning VCRs, which have more problems in the long run, will be cut.

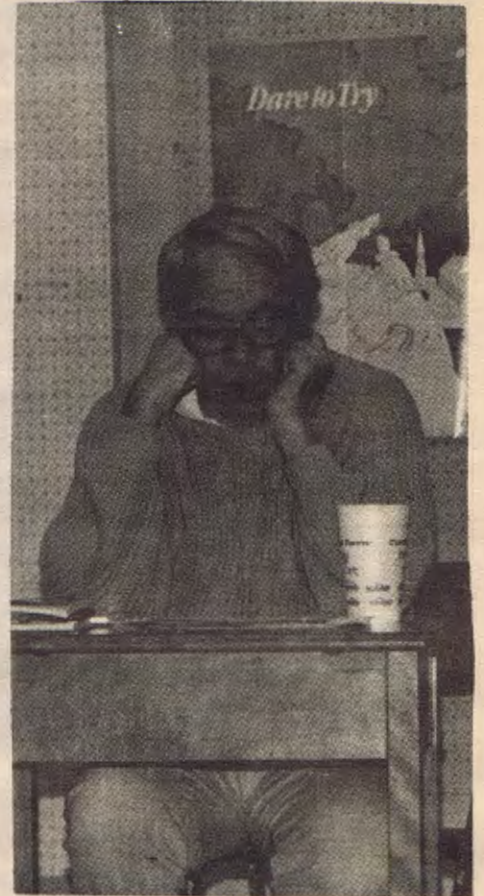
Production from 3A

"The class has also run into problems such as coming up with a new name for the program," said To

Willey. As well as name, the group has to think of some scripts. It's hard to think of scripts, but as soon as our writing catches up with our concepts, we should have some good material," said Willey.

Seth Hillaker agreed with Willey, and added that "with good equipment it should be a fast making program."

The first show is tentatively scheduled for March of 1989 during the same week as the Fine Arts Committee's celebration of the Arts. The show will be totally produced, hosted, filmed, and edited by the students of the V.T.P. students.



Steve Denson listens to auditions for the upcoming production of "Oklahoma!"



Hilary McHone played Emily in "Our Town"



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